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EXAMINER

LEE, BENJAMIN WILLIAM

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3709

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	01/03/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/765,024

Applicant(s)

GRABIEC, JACEK

Examiner

Benjamin W. Lee

Art Unit

3709

– The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address –
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3-11-2004
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 2, 8, 17, 20, 21, 22, 27, and 31 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 2, line 2: "system comprises" should be changed to --system further comprises--.

Claim 8, line 1: "audio system" should be changed to --audio module--.

Claim 17, line 2: "a game administrator" should be changed to --the game administrator--.

Claim 20, line 2: "a game administrator" should be changed to --the game administrator--.

Claim 21, line 1: "a game administrator" should be changed to --the game administrator--.

Claim 22, lines 1-2: "a game administrator" should be changed to --the game administrator--.

Claim 27, line 3: "configuration module" should be changed to --game configuration module--.

Claim 31, line 1: "claim 27, reporting" should be changed to --claim 27, wherein reporting--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

2. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Art Unit: 3709

3. Claims 12-22 and 27-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed inventions are directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Re claim 12: The claim is directed toward a “method of providing game administrator interface with a computerized system.” The invention disclosed in the claim is a process, which is one of the four statutory categories of invention (e.g. process, machine, manufacture, and composition of matter). However, the process disclosed in the claim includes the judicial exception of an abstract idea (“providing game administrator interface with a computerized system”). No physical transformation is present to establish a practical application of the abstract idea. Furthermore, the process disclosed in the claim does not contain a useful, concrete, and tangible result. “Reporting game technical information” is useful and concrete, but not tangible. Therefore, the claim is directed toward non-statutory subject matter.

Re claims 13-17, 20, and 22: The claims depend on claim 12 and do not disclose any further method steps. Therefore, the claims inherit the same deficiencies as claim 12.

Re claims 18, 19, and 21: The claims disclose additional method steps, but the additional method steps have similar deficiencies as claim 12. “Reporting the monitored state,” as disclosed in claim 18, line 2, is not a useful, concrete, and tangible result. “Conveying information,” as disclosed in claim 19, line 1, is not a useful, concrete, and tangible result. “Prompting a game administrator,” as disclosed in claim 21, line 1, is not a useful, concrete, and tangible result. Therefore, the claims are directed toward non-statutory matter.

Re claim 27: The claim is directed toward a “method of managing a computerized gaming system.” The invention disclosed in the claim is a process, which is one of the four statutory categories of invention (e.g. process, machine, manufacture, and composition of matter). However, the process disclosed in the claim includes the judicial exception of an abstract idea (“managing a computerized gaming system”). No physical transformation is present to establish a practical application of the abstract idea. Furthermore, the process disclosed in the claim does not contain a useful, concrete, and tangible result. “Reporting game configuration module information” is useful and concrete, but not tangible. Therefore, the claim is directed toward non-statutory matter.

Re claim 28: The claim discloses an additional method step, but the additional method step has similar deficiencies as claim 27. “Receiving game configuration module input” as disclosed in line 2 is not a useful, concrete, and tangible result. Therefore, the claim is directed toward non-statutory subject matter.

Re claims 29-32: The claims depend on claim 27 and do not disclose any further method steps. Therefore, the claims inherit the same deficiencies as claim 27.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

Art Unit: 3709

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1, 2, 5, 8, 12, 13, 16, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takemoto et al. (US 5,984,780).

Re claims 1: Takemoto et al. discloses a computerized gaming system comprising a gaming module/game control board unit 403, wherein the gaming module comprises a processor/CPU and gaming code 37 which is operable when executed on the processor to conduct a game of chance on which monetary value can be wagered (see Figs. 4 and 16; col. 5, lines 50-60; col. 19, lines 43-47), and an audio module/sound output section 2209 wherein the audio module is operable to report information comprising game technical information to a administrator. The sound output section is able to sound an alarm alerting a game administrator of an illegal act (see Figs. 19 and 22; col. 25, lines 53-61).

Re claim 2: The teachings of Takemoto et al. as applied to claim 1 have been discussed above. Takemoto et al. further discloses the computerized gaming system further comprises a mechanical user interface. The gaming machine comprises a settlement switch 107, a start lever 108, and game stop switches 109 (see Fig. 1; col. 5, lines 25-36).

Re claim 5: The teachings of Takemoto et al. as applied to claim 1 have been discussed above. Takemoto et al. further discloses the audio module/sound output section 2209 is operable

Art Unit: 3709

to report error condition information. The sound output section alerts game administrator of abnormal conditions (see col. 25, lines 53-61).

Re claim 8: The teachings of Takemoto et al. as applied to claim 1 have been discussed above. Takemoto et al. further discloses the audio system is further operable to convey information regarding an executing game of chance to a user (see col. 6, lines 15-17).

Re claim 12: Takemoto et al. discloses a method of providing game administrator interface with a computerized gaming system comprising reporting game technical information of the computerized gaming system to a game administrator via an audio system (see Figs. 19 and 22; col. 25, lines 53-61), the computerized gaming system operable to execute gaming code on a processor to conduct a game of chance on which monetary value can be wagered (see Figs. 4 and 16; col. 4, lines 29-32; col. 5, lines 50-60).

Re claim 13: The teachings of Takemoto et al. as applied to claim 12 have been discussed above. Takemoto et al. further discloses the computerized gaming system comprises a mechanical user interface. The gaming machine comprises a settlement switch 107, a start lever 108, and game stop switches 109 (see Fig. 1; col. 5, lines 25-36).

Re claim 16: The teachings of Takemoto et al. as applied to claim 1 have been discussed above. Takemoto et al. further discloses the game technical information comprises error

Art Unit: 3709

condition information. The sound output section alerts game administrator of abnormal conditions (see col. 25, lines 53-61).

Re claim 19: The teachings of Takemoto et al. as applied to claim 12 have been discussed above. Takemoto et al. further discloses the audio system is further operable to convey information regarding an executing game of chance to a user (see col. 6, lines 15-17).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1-9, 11, 12-20, 22-27, 31, and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wolf et al. (US 2004/0072611 A1) in view of the web page titled "Welcome to Our Multilingual Text-to-Speech Systems," hereafter referred to as the Lucent web page.

Re claim 1: Wolf et al. teaches a computerized gaming system comprising a gaming module/controller 100 wherein the gaming module/controller comprises a processor 104 and gaming code/program memory 102 which is operable when executed on the processor to conduct a game of chance on which monetary value can be wagered (see Fig. 3, ¶ [0057], ¶ [0006]), and an audio module/sound circuit 112 and speakers 62 (see Fig. 3). Wolf et al. further discloses

Art Unit: 3709

game technical information that may be presented to a game administrator via a series of menus (see Figs. 22-26).

However, Wolf et al. fails to disclose or fairly suggest the audio module is operable to report information comprising game technical information to a game administrator.

The Lucent web page teaches a Text-to-Speech system (TTS) implemented in software. TTS is able to process text and synthesize audible speech.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add TTS capability the gaming machine of Wolf et al. such that the text displayed via the configuration and information menus could be converted into speech in order to allow visually impaired game administrators to configure and monitor gaming machines.

Re claims 2 and 3: The teachings of Wolf et al. as modified by the Lucent web page, as applied to claim 1, have been discussed above. Wolf et al. further discloses the computerized gaming system comprises a mechanical user interface/mechanical reel slot machine interface (see ¶ [0051], lines 1-3).

Re claim 4: The teachings of Wolf et al. as modified by the Lucent web page, as applied to claim 1, have been discussed above. Wolf et al. further discloses the game technical information comprises a game setup menu/game options and a game troubleshooting menu/diagnostics (see Figs. 22-26).

Re claims 5 and 6: The teachings of Wolf et al. as modified by the Lucent web page, as applied to claim 1, have been discussed above. Wolf et al. further discloses the error condition information may be reported upon actuation by a game administrator by using the diagnostics or checking event logs (see Figs. 22-26).

Re claim 7: The teachings of Wolf et al. as modified by the Lucent web page, as applied to claim 1, have been discussed above. Although Wolf et al. is silent with respect to the computerized gaming system further comprising a monitoring module operable to monitor the state of one or more components of the computerized gaming system, and the audio module further operable to report monitoring module data to a game technician, it is believed to be inherent because the gaming machine keeps event logs (see Figs. 22-26) and monitors bets (see Fig. 8).

Re claim 8: The teachings of Wolf et al. as modified by the Lucent web page, as applied to claim 1, have been discussed above. Wolf et al. further discloses the audio system is operable to convey information regarding an executing game of chance to a user (see ¶ [0050]).

Re claim 9: The teachings of Wolf et al. as modified by the Lucent web page, as applied to claim 1, have been discussed above. Wolf et al. further discloses the gaming machine is operable to report information comprising game technical information to a game administrator when the game of chance is not executing (see Fig. 4; ¶ [0063], ¶ [0064]).

Art Unit: 3709

Re claim 11: The teachings of Wolf et al. as modified by the Lucent web page, as applied to claim 1, have been discussed above. The TTS system of the Lucent web page is able to convert the English text in the menus of the Wolf et al. gaming machine to English speech.

Re claim 12: Wolf et al. teaches a method of providing game administrator interface with a computerized gaming system comprising reporting game technical information of the computerized gaming system to a game administrator (see Figs. 22-26), the computerized gaming system operable to execute gaming code on a processor to conduct a game of chance on which monetary value can be wagered.

However, Wolf et al. fails to disclose or fairly suggest reporting game technical information via an audio system.

The Lucent web page teaches a Text-to-Speech system (TTS) implemented in software. TTS is able to process text and synthesize audible speech.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add TTS capability the gaming machine of Wolf et al. such that the text displayed via the configuration and information menus could be converted into speech in order to allow visually impaired game administrators to configure and monitor gaming machines.

Re claims 13 and 14: The teachings of Wolf et al. as modified by the Lucent web page, as applied to claim 12, have been discussed above. Wolf et al. further discloses the computerized gaming system comprises a mechanical user interface/mechanical reel slot machine interface (see ¶ [0051], lines 1-3).

Re claim 15: The teachings of Wolf et al. as modified by the Lucent web page, as applied to claim 12, have been discussed above. Wolf et al. further discloses a game setup menu/game options and a game troubleshooting menu/diagnostics (see Figs. 22-26).

Re claim 16: The teachings of Wolf et al. as modified by the Lucent web page, as applied to claim 1, have been discussed above. Wolf et al. further discloses the game technical information comprises error condition information in the diagnostics menu or the event logs (see Figs. 22-26).

Re claim 17: The teachings of Wolf et al. as modified by the Lucent web page, as applied to claim 12, have been discussed above. Wolf et al. further discloses the game technical information is reported upon actuation by the game administrator by checking the diagnostics menu or the event logs (see Figs. 22-26).

Re claim 18: The teachings of Wolf et al. as modified by the Lucent web page, as applied to claim 12, have been discussed above. Although Wolf et al. is silent with respect to monitoring the state of one or more components of the computerized gaming system, it is believed to be inherent because the gaming machine keeps event logs (see Figs. 22-26) and monitors bets (see Fig. 8).

Re claim 19: The teachings of Wolf et al. as modified by the Lucent web page, as applied to claim 12, have been discussed above. Wolf et al. further discloses conveying information regarding an executing game of chance to a user via the audio system (see ¶ [0050]).

Re claim 20: The teachings of Wolf et al. as modified by the Lucent web page, as applied to claim 12, have been discussed above. Wolf et al. further discloses the gaming machine is operable to report information comprising game technical information to a game administrator when the game of chance is not executing (see Fig. 4; ¶ [0063], ¶ [0064]).

Re claim 22: The teachings of Wolf et al. as modified by the Lucent web page, as applied to claim 12, have been discussed above. The TTS system of the Lucent web page is able to convert the English text in the menus of the Wolf et al. gaming machine to English speech.

Re claim 23: The teachings of Wolf et al. as modified by the Lucent web page, as applied to claim 1, have been discussed above. Wolf et al. further discloses a configuration module operable to facilitate gaming system configuration/game options and troubleshooting/diagnostics (see Figs. 22-26).

Re claim 24: The teachings of Wolf et al. as modified by the Lucent web page, as applied to claim 23, have been discussed above. Wolf et al. further discloses a hierarchal menu (see Figs. 22-26).

Re claim 25: The teachings of Wolf et al. as modified by the Lucent web page, as applied to claim 23, have been discussed above. Wolf et al. further discloses the computerized gaming system comprises a game having a mechanical interface operable to convey results of the game of chance (see ¶ [0051], lines 1-3).

Re claim 26: The teachings of Wolf et al. as modified by the Lucent web page, as applied to claim 23, have been discussed above. Wolf et al. further discloses the audio module is further operable to convey audio to a player of the game of chance (see ¶ [0050]).

Re claim 27: The teachings of Wolf et al. as modified by the Lucent web page, as applied to claim 12, have been discussed above. Wolf et al. further discloses a game configuration module operable to facilitate configuration/game options and troubleshooting/diagnostics (see Figs. 22-26).

Re claim 31: The teachings of Wolf et al. as modified by the Lucent web page, as applied to claim 27, have been discussed above. Wolf et al. further discloses a hierarchal menu with game configuration information (see Figs. 22-26) that may be reported by voice via an audio module by the TTS system of the Lucent web page.

Re claim 32: The teachings of Wolf et al. as modified by the Lucent web page, as applied to claim 27, have been discussed above. The TTS system of the Lucent web page is able to convert the English text in the menus of the Wolf et al. gaming machine to English speech.

8. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wolf et al. as modified by the Lucent web page as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Katz et al. (US 6,448,280).

The teachings of Wolf et al. as modified by the Lucent web page as applied to claim 1 have been discussed above.

However, the teachings of Wolf et al. as modified by the Lucent web page fail to disclose or fairly suggest the audio module is operable to prompt a game administrator to perform test or configuration functions.

Katz et al. teaches a gaming apparatus that provides voice prompts to users to enter information or provide responsive actions (see col.7, lines 20-23).

Therefore, in view of Katz et al., it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add the voice prompts of Katz et al. to the gaming machine of Wolf et al. as modified by the Lucent web page in order to create a more user-friendly game administration interface.

9. Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wolf et al. as modified by the Lucent web page as applied to claim 12 above, and further in view of Katz et al.

The teachings of Wolf et al. as modified by the Lucent web page as applied to claim 12 have been discussed above.

Art Unit: 3709

However, the teachings of Wolf et al. as modified by the Lucent web page fail to disclose or fairly suggest prompting the game administrator via the audio system to perform test or configuration functions.

Katz et al. teaches a gaming apparatus that provides voice prompts to users to enter information or provide responsive actions (see col.7, lines 20-23).

Therefore, in view of Katz et al., it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add the voice prompts of Katz et al. to the gaming machine of Wolf et al. as modified by the Lucent web page in order to create a more user-friendly game administration interface.

10. Claims 28-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wolf et al. as modified by the Lucent web page as applied to claim 27 above, and further in view of Katz et al.

Re claim 28: The teachings of Wolf et al. as modified by the Lucent web page as applied to claim 27 have been discussed above.

However, the teachings of Wolf et al. as modified by the Lucent web page fail to disclose or fairly suggest receiving game configuration module input from a game administrator in response to audio conveyed via the audio module.

Katz et al. teaches a gaming apparatus that provides voice prompts to users to enter information or provide responsive actions (see col.7, lines 20-23).

Art Unit: 3709

Therefore, in view of Katz et al., it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add the voice prompts of Katz et al. to the gaming machine of Wolf et al. as modified by the Lucent web page in order to create a more user-friendly game administration interface.

Re claims 29 and 30: The teachings of Wolf et al. as modified by the Lucent web page as applied to claim 28 have been discussed above. Wolf et al. further discloses game module input is received via actuating controls or buttons/switches configured to provide input for the game of chance (see ¶ [0062], lines 11-15).

Conclusion

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Shimizu et al. discloses a slot machine with configuration options. Kloss et al. discloses a method and apparatus for detecting fraud or theft in a gaming machine.

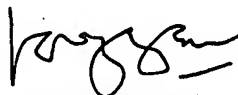
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Benjamin W. Lee whose telephone number is 571-270-1346. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Thurs (7:30AM-5PM), or Alt. Fri (7:30AM-4PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jong-Suk (James) Lee can be reached on 571-272-7044. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3709

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/bwl
Benjamin W. Lee
December 21, 2006


KIM NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER